

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Tsunenori ARAI et al.

Title: ***SHEATH REMOVAL HOLE CLOSING DEVICE USING LASER  
WELDING SCHEME***

Appl. No.: 10/589,803

International  
Filing Date: 2/21/2005

371(c) Date: 8/17/06

Examiner: Jeffrey Brian Lipitz

Art Unit: 3769

Confirmation  
Number: 2407

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which

would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

#### **TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

#### **RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Any document listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application. A copy of the Japanese final rejection is attached.

JP 9-70393 corresponds to English language reference U.S. Patent No. 5 766 132.

JP 2001-95767 corresponds to English language reference U.S. Patent No. 7 024 001.

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

#### **STATEMENT**

The undersigned hereby states, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this supplemental information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 14, 2011

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